

Message Text

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60
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

NIC-01 ACDA-05 /064 W
----- 003524

R 041610Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452
INFO MEMBASSY MOSCOW 1938
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1659

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: YUGOSLAVS ANGERED BY FRESH DOWNPLAY OF WWII ROLE BY GRECHKO

REF: BELGRADE 1617

1. YUGOSLAV MEDIA REPORTED ON GRECHKO ARTICLE ENTITLED "HISTORICAL LESSON OF THE GREAT VICTORY" IN APR 2 ISSUE OF CZECHOSLOVAK MILITARY JOURNAL OBRANA LIDU, WHICH WILL ONLY BE FUEL FOR MORE YUGOSLAV IRE OVER WAY SOVIETS AND WP FRIENDS ARE PLAYING YUGOSLAV ROLE IN SECOND WORLD WAR. TANJUG REPORTED THAT GRECHKO GAVE RED ARMY CREDIT FOR LIBERATING ALL OF EASTERN EUROPE "INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA." HERE AS ELSEWHERE, GRECHKO IS QUOTED AS SAYING, (FAVORABLE CONDITIONS" EXISTED FOR WORKING CLASS TO FOUND AND DEVELOP MOVEMENT "UNDER DIRECT INFLUENCE OF THE RED ARMY OFFENSIVE". GRECHKO ALSO INCLUDED YUGOSLAVS AMONG NATIONAL UNITS THAT FOUGHT ALONGSIDE SOVIET ARMY TO DEFEAT FASCISM AND RECORDED SOVIET PEOPLE'S RESPECT FOR THEIR "CONTRIBUTION" (BRAVE YUGOSLAV FIGHTERS ARE LISTED JUST AFTER BULGARIANS AND ROMANIANS AND BEFORE ALBANIANS AND GREEK PARTISANS AT THE END).

2. TANJUG DID NOT COMMENT ON ARTICLE BUT DIDN'T COMPARE IT WITH
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RECENT YAKUBOVSKI RUDE PRAVO PIECE WHICH AT LEAST IN PART

TRIGGERED TITO'S ANGRY SPEECH SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT (REFTEL.
(GRECHKO ARTICLE APPEARED IN PRAGUE SAME DAY AS TITO'S MORNING
SPEECH IN SKOPJE, SO IT IS UNLIKELY HE KNEW ABOUT IT. IF HE
DID HAVE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF IT, HOWEVER, IT WOULD HELP EXPLAIN
HIS IRE GIVEN GRECHKO'S POSITION AND SUPPOSED FREINDSHIP TOWARD
YUGOSLAVIA).

BELGRADE RADIO HAS COMMENTED, CHARACTERIZING GRECHKO'S STATE-
MENTS AS NEW AND INSULTING ATTEMPT TO DIMINISH YUGOSLAV ROLE
IN WAR. THAT'S SURELY ONLY THE OPENER.

TOON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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